



Weekly Drought Brief Monday, June 30, 2014

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Fire Activity: CAL FIRE has responded to 2,679 wildfires across the state since January 1, burning 18,447 acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 1,769 wildfires on 15,523 acres. Cal FIRE responded to over 190 new wildfires last week, including the Reed and Oak fires, both in Calaveras County, which burned a total of over 205 acres. While drought conditions have increased wildfires, additional firefighters and equipment mobilized earlier than normal have allowed CAL FIRE to contain these wildfires quickly in most cases.

Snow Survey: The most [recent update](#) of snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountains, using automated devices, shows snowpack at 0% of normal as of June 9. Although snow patches can be seen at the highest elevations, snowpack that accumulated over the winter has melted and flowed into California's rivers and reservoirs. Therefore, this will be the last update of snowpack in the Weekly Drought Update.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): [Reservoir Levels](#) as of June 26 remain low, including: Don Pedro 50%; Exchequer 27%; Folsom Lake 49%; Lake Oroville 44%; Millerton Lake 64%; New Melones 30%; Pine Flat 37%; San Luis 33%; Shasta 42%; and Trinity Lake 44%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

Vulnerable Water Systems: The California Department of Public Health is providing technical and funding assistance to help several communities facing near-term drinking water shortages. The Department is also monitoring water systems across the state to determine where else it can provide support. Already, over \$6.5 million has been identified for specific emergency drinking water projects, out of \$15 million appropriated for this purpose by emergency drought legislation passed by the State Legislature in March. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

Recent precipitation: No significant rain fell over the last week and no rain is expected this coming week.

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **Emergency Water Curtailments expanded:** The State Water Board is issuing new curtailment notices today to junior water right holders on the North Fork of the Eel River and the Van Duzen River, with curtailment notices likely for the main stem and Middle Fork of the Eel River next week. An informational conference call with the affected County Boards of Supervisors is being held later today. Curtailments made along Deer Creek (far north state) under the Board's emergency minimum fish flow regulations was lifted last week now that migrating fish are out of the system. The Water Board has received about 200 claims from curtailed water users that their water is needed for health and safety purposes and is currently assessing these claims.

Tomorrow (Tuesday, July 1), the Water Board will consider adopting new emergency regulations to protect senior water right holders across the state by implementing curtailments

on a real-time basis. Updated information on water curtailments can be found on the Water Board's [curtailment webpage](#).

- **Water Board considers mandatory conservation measures:** Earlier this month, water agencies that serve California's cities and towns [provided updates](#) to the State Water Resources Control Board on current water consumption. These updates, combined with a statewide survey of water agencies' conservation actions, have informed the Water Board's development of potential new emergency regulations for water conservation in the coming months. Proposed regulations will be released on Tuesday, July 8 for public review and comment. On Tuesday July 15, the State Water Board will meet to consider these proposed regulations. The Governor's recent [Proclamation of Continued Emergency Drought](#) has called on residents to limit outdoor irrigation and prevent wasteful water practices, and directed water agencies to prevent water waste.
- **Emergency food aid:** The California Department of Social Services has provided to date over 90,500 boxes of food to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 26,500 visits have been made to food pick-up sites to collect this food aid by individuals and families impacted by the drought. The Department is working with local food banks to ensure that this food aid is targeted to residents most impacted by the drought.
- **Two California water agencies receive funding for water recycling studies:** The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on Thursday [announced funding](#) for nine water agencies in the southwestern US that will receive \$1.3 million for Water Reclamation and Reuse Feasibility Studies. Two selected projects are located in California: The Santa Margarita Water District and the Eastern Municipal Water District (Riverside County).
- **More rental assistance to drought-impacted families:** The California Department of Housing and Community Development this week will announce recipients of special rounds of funding for rental assistance provided through the federal Home Investments Partnership Program (HOME) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The CDBG funds will be used for short-term rental assistance up to two months to drought impacted families, while the HOME program funds provide longer-term assistance by providing rental assistance for up to 6 months. These programs complement additional rental assistance aid provided by state government.
- **Open Burn Ban begins this week across the state:** Open burning is now prohibited on 31 million acres of land across the state, due to a [burn ban that CAL FIRE](#) has directed each of its unit chiefs to implement. This ban on open burning in state responsibility areas (outside of cities and towns) reduces wildfire danger amidst extremely dry conditions. CAL FIRE unit chiefs are also urging residents to approach any use of fireworks during the Fourth of July holiday very cautiously and to comply with all local laws regarding use of fireworks.
- **Water saving tips promoted across the state:** The state's water conservation campaign, Save Our Water, has launched a new user-friendly website that can be easily accessed by phones and other personal devices: [SaveOurWater.com](#). The site promotes our "Don't Waste Summer" campaign and provides a new conservation tip each day for the 100 days of summer. Supporters can follow and share Save Our Water's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) feeds for this public awareness campaign.
- **Energy Upgrade California launches water saving efforts:** In support of water conservation efforts, the state's program [Energy Upgrade California](#) has launched the "[Save](#)

[Water & Energy This Summer](#)" campaign for the summer. Energy Upgrade California is supported by an alliance of the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Energy Commission, utilities, regional energy networks, local governments, businesses and nonprofits and helps residents reduce energy consumption and reach climate action goals.

- **Farm-based water efficiency grants available:** The California Department of Food and Agriculture is holding workshops to help farm owners apply for grants under the [State Water and Energy Efficiency Program \(SWEET\) program](#), which is funded by cap-and-trade revenues and allocated through the state's emergency drought legislation. Registration for these workshops and funding details are available on the [Department's website](#) and applications for funding are due July 15.
- **State Fair will urge water conservation:** During the 161st California State Fair that runs from July 11 to July 27, the [Save Our Water campaign](#) will showcase two large exhibit areas which will focus on promoting indoor and outdoor water conservation strategies.
- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Taskforce continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

Local Government

- **Bulk Potable Water Contract available to local governments:** The California Department of General Services has announced the award of [Bulk Potable Water contracts](#) with seven approved water haulers. The contract covers the entire state and is available to state and local government entities to use for purchase of bulk water. Combined with the state's emergency bottled water contract, this effort will help state and local jurisdictions quickly purchase emergency drinking water supplies.
- **San Diego Water Board takes actions to spur water conservation:** On Thursday (June 26) the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board [waived regulations](#) of 36 types of waste discharges to assist regional water conservation efforts while ensuring water quality. This action, for example, cuts red tape for homeowners to use grey water to irrigate outdoor landscaping and construction projects to use grey water for dust control.
- **San Diego Water Board authorizes a 50% increase in recycled water production at Camp Pendleton:** The San Diego Regional Water Board has also [adopted an order](#) authorizing an increase in recycled water production at the US Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton from 5 million gallons per day to 7.5 million gallons per day.
- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 45 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
 - **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Shasta, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba, and Mariposa.
 - **Cities:** Brooktrails Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits-Mendocino County, City of St. Helena-Napa County, City of Calistoga-Napa County, City of American Canyon-Napa County, City of Santa Barbara-Santa Barbara County, City of Montague-Siskiyou County, City of Live Oak-Sutter County, and San Juan Bautista
 - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties, Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

- **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District, Montecito Water District, Goleta Water District, Tuolumne Utilities District, Nevada Irrigation District
- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.
- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 26 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Napa. The Hoopa Tribe has also established a drought task force.

DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse

State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)
Local Government [Drought Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)

California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)
California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)
California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)
California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)
California State Water Project, [Information](#)

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for current conditions throughout the region
[U.S. Drought Portal](#), National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
National Weather Service [Climate Predictor Center](#)
USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)
USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)
Small Business Administration Disaster Support: www.sba.gov/disaster